Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 /010 W

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R 130855Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6120 INFO USIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 9359

E.O. 11652: GDS 3 TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: MORE ATHMOSPHERICS: INDIAN AMBASSADOR AND

AMERICAN SCHOLARS

REF: NEW DELHI 9234; CU/NEA HUBBARD MEMCON JUNE 6 ON INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL RELATIONS

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - HINDUSTAN TIMES OF AUGUST 9 CARRIED SHORT NEWS ITEM UNDER HEADING "GOVT TOLD TO RELAX CURBS ON US SCHOLARS" REPORTING THAT THE FORMER AND PRESENT INDIAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON HAD EXPRESSED "STRONG FEELINGS" ON NEED FOR MORE FLEXIBLE GOI VISA POLICY. THEY REPORTEDLY SAID THIS WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID ALIENATION OF SCHOLARS IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS INDIA. AMERICAN SCHOLARS, THE REPORT SAYS, FIND INCOMPREHENSIBLE INDIA'S INSISTENCE ON "GUIDLINES" WHICH LUMP TOGETHER ALL SORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS, COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

- 2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL WHEN DEFENCE SECRETARY GOVIND NARAIN INFORMED DCM AUGUST 9 THAT GOI HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT US OFFER FOR TRAINING IN US, HE ADDED CURIOUS REMARK THAT QUESTION OF VISITS BY SCHOLARS WOULD ALSO BE CLEARED UP. HE OFFERED NO EXPLANATION. END CONFIDENTIAL
- 3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE EMBASSY HAS DETECTED NO RELAXATION OF GOI RESTRICTIONS. WE WONDER WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAS HEARD MORE ON THE SUBJECT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: STUDENTS, VISITS, VISA REGULATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 AUG 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE09359

Document Number: 1973NEWDE09359 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS MOYNIHAN

Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: NEW DELHI Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730841/aaaabehd.tel Line Count: 61

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION CU

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 9234; CU/NEA HUBBARD MEMCO, N JUNE 6 ON INDIAN

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: morefirh

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19 DEC 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by morefirh>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MORE ATHMOSPHERICS: INDIAN AMBASSADOR AND AMERICAN SCHOLARS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005